

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Paragraph beginning at line 7 of page 63 has been amended as follows:

Herein, the microscopic aperture 84 of the reproducing probe 83 is asymmetric left and right about the center axis 81 of the read-out track in a plane direction of the information recording medium 80, particularly, in a shape constantly increased in interval in a track direction in one direction as shown in Fig. 12(a). Stated otherwise, the interval or width w of the microscopic aperture in the direction of the read-out track gradually increases in a direction perpendicular to both the direction of the read-out track and a direction of a depth of the information recording medium.